

# Making friends with your new dog

The right body language can help your new dog build trust faster. Here are a few tips to get your adoption off on the right paw!

## Side to dog

Facing your dog head on can be intimidating. Instead, lead with your shoulder to invite a greeting. Looking away or even looking at your phone can also let the dog know you are not a threat.



## Crouch, sit

If standing with your side to the dog isn't enough, try crouching or sitting down.



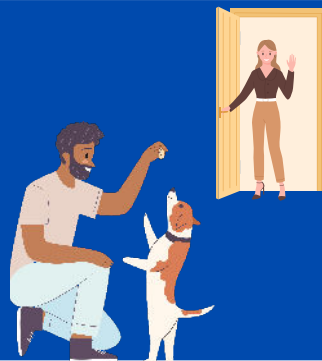
## Let the dog initiate contact

Patience is your friend! Waiting for the dog to come to you helps them feel more in control of their environment.



## Use Treats

Toss a treat before you stand - this will prevent surprises & help your dog move away before you get up. If a new person comes into the room, give your dog a treat to help build a good association with sudden change.



## Things to avoid

Bending over, reaching overhead, direct eye contact, and quick movements are all particularly scary to many dogs.



## Give visual access when at rest

New people are least scary when we're asleep. Let your new dog see, or even have the option to come close to you when sleeping, watching TV, or quietly working at your desk.



To learn more, join Mighty Mutts Dog Training's Confidence Builders Academy!

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